Secret Service Identifies Pair Seized at McGovern's Hotel

By WALLACE TURNER 7/14/72

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MIAMI BEACH, July 13 — Two men arrested yesterday at Senator George McGovern's hotel here were identified today by the Secret Service as Wayne Harris Foster, 32 years old, and Jessie Dixon, 33.

The two were held under bail of $100,000 each.

They had been taken into custody at the Doral Hotel on a state charge of carrying concealed weapons. A 9-mm. pistol and a .38-caliber revolver were found under the front seat of their car, the officials said.

The officials said the two men were members of the black nationalist group called the Republic of New Africa.

When they were arrested, the Secret Service announcement said, the man identified as Wayne Foster gave the name Alek Sonnebeyatta and the man identified as Jessie Dixon gave the name Ahmed Obatemi. Both said they were from Jackson, Miss., and the Secret Service said its information agreed with this.

The Secret Service said identification was by fingerprints and "other sources," which were not specified.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is in charge of the investigation, but Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents are taking part.

It appeared from official sources' statements yesterday that the men had been followed by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and Secret Service agents when they went to the Doral Hotel.

Official sources would not explain why the surveillance had been carried out. It was also said by official sources that a part of the investigation concerned whether the guns found in the car at the time of the arrest came from a purchase of 40 weapons made recently in Michigan.

No formal request was made today to have the amount of bail reduced nor had any attempt been made to win release of the two men through a request for a writ of habeas corpus. They have been defended by the public defender's office.

The Republic of New Africa was founded in Detroit in 1968 with a program that demanded that a black nation be formed from the states of Mississippi, South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana and Alabama.

Members of the group have been involved in two shootouts with the police. The first was in Detroit in 1969, at the first convention, when a policeman was killed. Last August another policeman was killed and 11 members of the Republic of New Africa were arrested in a raid on the group's headquarters in Jackson, Miss., where some members moved in 1971.